

THE CONNECTION

December 22, 2021

Celebrate Jesus' Birth with Us Christmas Eve!

At 4:00 pm in the sanctuary will be a dramatic presentation, *A Line in Time*, written by Rev. Becky. Just prior to the program, the congregation will be greeted by our little shepherd, Teddy Aravena and our littlest angel, Isabelle Oehler who will ask the audience to join them in singing "Jesus Loves Me." The production is directed by Jane Peterson, with Nicholas Todd Shumate as music director. Along with the story, the congregation will hear several carols from our Wise Men, Mary, and the cast, as well as a sing-along at the end. This production is suitable for the entire family. Masks and social distancing will be required for those in attendance. The production team includes Lynn Shirley, Tommy Betenbaugh, Sam Waldrep, and Susan Caskey. The cast features:

Narrator: **Rev. Becky Shirley**

Joseph: **Joseph Graham**

Mary: **Michelle Graham**

Baby Jesus: **Joseph Graham, Jr.**

Rebecca: **Darby Waund**

Shepherds: **Alan-Jon Zupan, Dane Waund, Mackenzie Powers**

Sheep: **Rosemary Aravena**

Star of Bethlehem: **Alma Louise Aravena**

Wise men: **Nicholas Shumate, Pato Aravena, Malcolm Lemons**

Piano: **Rick Frierson**

Organ: **Louis Shirer**

At 5:30 pm, a traditional service with lessons, carols, communion and candle lighting will be held in the sanctuary. Individual communion elements will be provided. Again, masks are required and social distancing is highly encouraged with the new high numbers of Covid in our community. We appreciate everyone's cooperation following our protocols.



Homer Fesperman Worship Technology Fund Established

To honor the legacy of contributions from Homer V. Fesperman to the church's worship services through his audio and technological expertise, a fund memorializing Homer has been established by Linda Fesperman (wife) and daughter Lin Fesperman Lord. The purpose of this fund is to provide resources for the church's evolving ministries in worship, including but not limited to live stream resources and upgrades to the technology used in the worship experience.

In this special season of remembrance and giving, you are invited to make a seed contribution to this effort. Of course, a contribution at any time will be used to accrue funds needed to expand the current live stream ministry and improve worship technology.



Sunday School

• **The Aldersgate Sunday School Class:** will begin a discussion and lesson on *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught* by Adam Hamilton, pastor and best-selling author. Hamilton guides us to really know- and really pray- the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of the its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. Please come join us, we welcome all. This discussion will be led by David Anderson and Hal Hanlin. We hope to have a DVD from Adam Hamilton to view along with the discussions, but it has yet to be released. Should you have any questions, please call David A. Anderson (mobile 803-318-8821) or danderson@richardsonplowden.com.

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, December 26, we will continue our study of *Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic—and Beyond* by Matthew Fox. John Evans will teach Chapter 7, "The Power of Love Over Evil: A Call to Wellness." Next Sunday, January 2, we will finish the book. Hunter Rentz will lead a discussion of the Conclusion, "Why Julian? Why Now?" and the Epilogue, "A Prophet for the Twenty-First Century." The class will meet by FreeConference Call. Class members should call in before 9:15 a.m., but not before 9:05 a.m. The call-in number is (701) 802-5115. The access code is 7252934. For more information about the class, contact the class president Mary Slade at marydslade4@gmail.com.

• **The Grace Class:** Dec. 26: "Upsetting the Pyramid." The class is working on topics for upcoming Sundays. Join in person or contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu for the Zoom link to gather Sunday mornings at 9:45 am for fellowship, and at 10:00 am for spiritual reflection. All are welcome to join!

• **The Joy Class** is embracing the Advent season with a series of Advent themed lessons led by various members. All are welcome to join us as we learn and grow together to prepare for the season. If you are interested, please contact Lee Haynes at lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com for more information.

• **Open Door Class:** On December 26, Open Door will complete its study of *Incarnation* by Adam Hamilton and will not meet on January 2. The class meets both in person and via zoom each week. For Zoom link information, contact Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

• **The Paul Harmon Class:** The Paul Harmon Class will not meet December 26th or January 2nd. On January 9th, Reverend Don Britt will begin a series of lessons on the history of Methodism and the Methodist Church today. All are welcome to join us. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at sjoye@sc.rr.com.

• **John Harper Class:** is currently studying the Gospels using Cokesbury Adult Sunday School materials. The class is led by Tracy Powers. All are welcome. Contact Tracy for more information at tjpowers65@gmail.com.

• **WSUMC Youth Class:** In Sunday school on December 26th, the youth will be discussing "Christmas is over, now what? Or... Is it just beginning?" To participate, please email Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

THE WSUMC OFFICE &
CDC WILL BE CLOSED
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS ON
FRIDAY, DEC. 24 &
MONDAY, DEC. 27

Gifts

IN HONOR OF ALAN-JON ZUPAN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Meghan &
Kylie Hopkins

IN HONOR OF LILLIAN MCCLAIN
& KAREN HOSTETLER
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Ed McClain

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Beth &
Lamar Brabham

IN HONOR OF BECKY SHIRLEY
to the Minister's Discretionary
Fund
Given by Susan Brown

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to WSUMC
Given by Joan &
Bob Beamer

IN MEMORY OF
FURMAN & MARY MCEACHERN
to WSUMC
Given by Sally & Jim Mings

IN HONOR OF ALSTON LIPPETT
to the Minister's Discretionary
Fund
Given by Susan Brown

IN HONOR OF SAM WALDREP
to the Flower Fund
Given by Susan Brown

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Organ Fund
Given by Louis Shirer

IN HONOR OF TONI WHITE &
JOE ALLEY
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Ann White

IN HONOR OF KEL, LISH, ANSLEY
& SIERRA JANSEN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Ann White

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to the Organ Fund
Given by Louis Shirer

IN MEMORY OF RICK HEFFER
to the Soup Cellar
Given by A.B.T.A.T.M.S.
Book Club

IN HONOR OF DEBBIE EDENS
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Todd Timmons

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER
to WSUMC
Given by Rick Frierson

IN MEMORY OF RICK HEFFER
to WSUMC
Given by Janelle Rivers

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Organ Fund
Given by Louis Shirer

IN HONOR OF MARY LIDE
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Nancy Higgins

IN MEMORY OF
DUNBAR GODBOLD
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Ann Mercer

IN HONOR OF THE
WOMEN SOUP CELLAR
VOLUNTEERS FROM TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Ruth Tibshirany

Prayer List

Lyn Bailey
Thom Berry
Martha Boynton
Martha Brooker
Sally Christian
Heidi Conte
Mickey Epting
Bud Harrelson
Laura Holladay
Karen Horne
Geneva Hutchinson
Lisa Johnson
Debby Joyner

Rev. Judy King
Mike LeFever
Paul McClanahan
David Middleton
Lauren, Greg, and Nora Blair
Middleton and family
Rick Rowe
Boyd Saunders
Stephanie Saunders
Sarah Threatt
Marjorie Tuell
Our homebound

New Wednesday Night Small Group Study Starts Jan. 5

Wednesday Night Small Group will begin a new study on January 5. The group will begin *How to Age Without Getting Old: The Steps to Take to Stay Young for the Rest of your Life* by Joyce Meyer.

"Everything is beautiful in its time. Life is a journey through beautiful and varied seasons, with a dynamic cadence and full of continued discovery. Embrace each season of your life and learn to live into it fully with grace and help from Joyce Meyer, as she shows you:

- How to truly cast even your lifelong cares upon the Lord
- How to live dynamically, embracing and delighting in the journey

- How to embrace God's grace for this season
- How to live abundantly as your body and mind change

God's timing is always perfect, and there is a distinct and meaningful purpose for this season of your life. Joyce says, "Only a fool thinks they can always do what they have always done." *How to Age Without Getting Old* equips us to become wise enough to embrace God's changing grace and the evolution of our calling to the next season of life."

To join in, register online through Realm or by emailing Ann at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

**Amazon.com*



Last Sunday's Camille Saint Saëns during the 11:00 am service was expertly performed by WSUMC Choir and soloists along with guest musicians. Hats off to Nicholas Todd Shumate for bring this fabulous program to us!

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR REALM?

- Find contact information on other members
- Send messages to your groups
- Sign up for small groups and other special events
- Add and share resources with others
- Automatically track your giving ...and so much more!

Questions? Contact Lynn Shirley at wmlynnsc@gmail.com, or one of the WSUMC staff members.

Reminder!

The deadline to put a \$100 deposit down for the 2022 Ecuador mission trip is January 15th.

Questions?

Contact Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2

Leon Davis, Jr.
Mickey Epting
Connor Freeman

January 4

Stewart Bond
Bob Peeler

January 5

Pam Jenkins
Pierce McNair

January 6

Harriett Davis

January 7

Kennedy Rose
Kenneth Taylor
Emily Torres

January 8

Betty Bowers

January 10

Sarah Johnson
Daniel Marsha

January 11

Patti Andrews
Rick Rowe

January 12

Monica Davis
Linda Moore

Jim Ward

Ann White

January 13

Carl Evans
Harry Lesesne
Robbie Lindler
Caroline Pender

Larry Railey

Caitlyn Venner

Emily Watkins

January 14

Trisha Britt

Margo Krasowski

David Nelson

January 15

Charles Bryan

Naomi Chiorazzi

January 16

Penny Horton

Wendy Tague

January 17

John Burbage

Jacob Schatz

January 18

Gabe Baker

January 19

Elyse Epting

Ford Epting

Hilary Riley

Rebecca Shrum

January 20

Hamilton Matthews

Sara Matthews

January 21

Jean Harmon

January 22

Cecelia Stucker

Jim Tuell

Richard Wright

January 23

By Collins

Cathy Deyo

Meghan Goldfinch

Jamie Sanders

January 24

Judy Ellington

Pete Liggett

January 25

Beth Cooper

Christopher FitzSimons

Bess Ratsimbaharison

January 26

John Beck

Carole McConkey

Becky Shirley

Lynn Shirley

Sylvia Stevens

January 27

Marion Burnside, III

Thomas Lide

Linda Reardon

Jerry Sumpter

Bill Westerkam

Emily Workman

January 28

Jonathan Jackson

Kristin Nix

Rom Pompeii

January 29

Sawyer Anderson

Tom Jacobs

Jennifer Rodgers

January 30

Eugenia Beach

Mattie Floyd

January 31

Susan Brown

Anna Katherine Middleton

Lora Smith



Keep Social Distancing

TO STAY SAFE



WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DONATE NOW

Help us reach our budget goal for 2021!
We ask that you prayerfully consider an extra
gift this year. Your investment in the world
God is doing through our ministries is making
a positive difference every day.

\$691,978

86%

GOAL

808,281

www.wsmethodist.org/giving



SCAN TO
GIVE

ATTENDANCE:

December 5: 124

December 12: 145

December 19: 165

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE

(as of 12-21-21):

Church:

Budget: \$808,281

Actual: \$691,978

Soup Cellar: \$77,202

Foundation Gifts: \$131,250

Scan Me
to Give!



Give online today
wsmethodist.org/giving